

Introduction

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The overwhelmingly positive public response to [*Chicago Through a Policy Lens*](#) demands a sequel – and we are back, with eight all-new essays in *Chicago Through a Policy Lens 2.0*!

In the fall of 2023, eight fourth-year Public Policy Studies majors at the University of Chicago came together for their capstone experience, a course that would entail (among other things) each of them writing a professional quality policy essay with a connection to Chicagoland. For most of the participants, their chosen topic was new to them, but a few months later (the work includes developments up to mid-December, 2023), they were experienced hands. We are pleased to present their resulting essays here.

Besides the authors themselves, one other person who was instrumental to the process of completing this work was the Public Policy Instructional Assistant, Francis Fabre. Thank you, Francis, for all of your help with the University of Chicago Public Policy Studies graduating class of 2024; may your sojourn across the Midway be a happy one.

One person who has helped to shepherd our students along the way – really, every step along the way – to graduation, and often has been involved in easing their journeys even before the students became Public Policy majors, is Dr. Milvia Rodriguez. Milvia is a Program Director *par excellence*, and *Chicago Through a Policy Lens 2.0* is dedicated, with admiration and thanks, to Dr. Milvia.

Finally, worthy students and authors, thank you for all you have brought to our major and the University of Chicago. Your commitment, your enthusiasm, and your outstanding work should make you proud – and they surely make Public Policy Studies proud. Onwards and upwards!